UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/C.2/L.193/Add.5
5 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Legal Subcommittee
Thirty-second session
New York, 22 March-8 April 1993

DRAFT REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Addendum

INTRODUCTION

(continued)

1. At the opening meeting, the Chairman made a statement concerning the utilization of conference services by the Subcommittee. He drew attention to the importance the General Assembly and the Committee on Conferences attached to the effective utilization of conference services by all United Nations deliberative bodies and noted that the percentage of the use of conference services by the Subcommittee had improved lately. In view of this, the Chairman proposed and the Subcommittee agreed that the following measures, similar to those adopted in the past, should also be adopted at the current session of the Subcommittee:

(a) The Subcommittee and its working groups should begin their meetings punctually at the scheduled time, even if there was no quorum (14 members);

(b) The Office of Conference Services should be notified as early as possible whenever it was anticipated that any of the services usually provided were not going to be required. If possible, there should be 24 hours' prior notice;

(c) Informal consultations (i.e., outside the auspices of the Subcommittee and its working groups) should not interrupt the work of the Subcommittee or its working groups;

(d) The general rule for annexing documents to the report of the Subcommittee should be that normally any document would be annexed, if at all,

only once - to the report of the session in which it was first submitted, but not to later reports;

(e) The Subcommittee should not have plenary meetings in the afternoons when the agenda items on nuclear power sources, on definition of outer space/geostationary orbit and on outer space benefits were considered. Instead, the working groups on these items should meet;

(f) Delegations wishing to speak at the Subcommittee's next plenary meeting should inform the Chairman of their intention before the adjournment of the previous plenary meeting. If no such information was received by the Chairman, the next plenary meeting of the Subcommittee should be cancelled, and a working group should meet instead;

(g) The Subcommittee and its working groups should seek to schedule in advance informal consultations at which conference services would not be used. For this purpose, the Subcommittee and its working groups should decide as early as possible whether it is feasible to cancel in advance some of their formal meetings in order to have informal consultations among interested delegations. This measure, if adopted, should not preclude resorting to unscheduled informal consultations following a decision of the Subcommittee or a working group, if such consultations are deemed necessary for attaining progress in deliberations;

(h) The Subcommittee should seek to reduce, by one a week, the number of morning plenary meetings and to allocate the time saved for the meetings of relevant working groups. For this purpose, the Chairman should set a deadline for closing lists of speakers for the general exchange of views and for each of the substantive agenda items;

(i) The Subcommittee and its working groups should begin their morning meetings at 10 a.m., with the understanding that this does not relate to and does not affect the question of the length of the session.

2. As for specific steps to implement measure (g) indicated in paragraph 1 above, the Chairman proposed and the Subcommittee agreed not to schedule six formal afternoon meetings on 23, 24, 29 and 30 March, and on 2 and 5 April so that informal consultations among interested delegations could be held instead.

3. The Subcommittee agreed that a similar organization of work as agreed upon at the current session would again serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee's thirty-third session.

4. The Chairman undertook informal consultations for the purpose of further improving the utilization of conference-servicing resources by the Subcommittee.

5. In the course of a general exchange of views, some delegations expressed their grave concern over the threat of extending the arms race into outer space. They believed that every effort should be made to avert that danger and that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as its subcommittees, could make important contributions in that regard, playing a supportive role for other international forums dealing with the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space. Those delegations believed that machinery should be established

for cooperation between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of the Arms Race in Outer Space of the Conference on Disarmament.

6. Other delegations, in the course of a general exchange of views, expressed the view that disarmament questions did not fall within the competence of either the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or its subsidiary bodies. They pointed out that the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space was properly a matter for the Conference on Disarmament. They were of the view that the Committee and its subcommittees should not be distracted from the task of promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by being drawn into areas belonging to the mandate of other forums.

7. In the course of a general exchange of views, some delegations referred to the threat posed by space debris to man's future activities in outer space. Those delegations believed that an international agreement specifically focusing on space debris might be necessary, and that it was advisable for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two subcommittees to begin consideration of all technical, legal and political issues relating to space debris.

8. The Subcommittee held a total of ___ meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.562 to ___.

9. At its ___ meeting, on 8 April, the Subcommittee adopted the present report and concluded the work of its thirty-second session.